PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Teacher’s Manual

Contents

[THINGS TO KNOW 3](#_Toc462412548)

[Session 1 – THE POWER OF GOD 6](#_Toc462412550)

[Session 2 – THE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL 9](#_Toc462412551)

[Session 3 – ENGAGING CULTURE AND COMMUNITY 12](#_Toc462412552)

[Session 4 – RECOGNIZING UNIQUENESS IN EVANGELISM APPROACHES 15](#_Toc462412553)

[Session 5 – YOUR TWO-MINUTE MIRACLE AND MORE 18](#_Toc462412554)

[Session 6 – THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD 23](#_Toc462412555)

**Helpful Headings in this Teacher’s Manual**

### OBJECTIVES

### OVERVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND

### TEACHING TIP

### EXPLANATION

### APPLICATION

### assignment

###

### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the participants should:

• develop a lifestyle of engaging culture and community

• encourage others to share their testimony and preach the gospel

• be able to confidently share the two-minute miracle and preach the gospel

**OVERVIEW**

Session 1: **The Power of God**

Session 2: **The Important Elements of the Gospel**

Session 3: **Engaging Culture and Community**

Session 4: **Recognizing Uniqueness in Evangelism Approaches**

Session 5: **Your Two-Minute Miracle and More**

Session 6: **The Gospel to the World**

# THINGS TO KNOW

[Important notes for the teacher/s of this course]

This course has a total of six sessions of 60 minutes (maximum) per session. All the sessions have video courses with Bishop Ferdie Cabiling, Pastor Jun Escosar, and Pastor Rico Ricafort as the speakers. The first day will comprise of sessions 1 to 3, and the rest of the sessions (4 to 6) will be at the second day. The local center has the discretion to either show all the videos, or use the videos as teacher's resource. Each video is about twenty-five minutes long. If the center prefers a live teacher, ***the center needs to show the required videos for sessions 1 and 6***. Example:

***Day 1***

*Session 1* ***Show video***

*Session 2­­­ Live teacher*

*Session 3 Live teacher*

***Day 2***

*Session 4 Live teacher*

*Session 5­­­ Live teacher*

*Session 6* ***Show video***

# In this teacher's manual, students' notes are enclosed in boxes for easy reference. The blanks in the students' manual have been filled in this manual. However, spaces for notes in the students' manual have been removed from this teacher's manual. Also, notes enclosed in brackets in this manual are guidelines or recommendations for teachers.

The general structure to be followed for each session includes: teaching, application (through discussion questions), class processing, and activity (when applicable). Please note that the discussions and activities may be revised based on context and location. More time may be allotted for the activity. Most discussions and activities are done in small groups. Removing the application and activities to give way for a longer teaching session is not recommended. Class processing is done at the end of the application (discussion questions) to gauge individual learnings and possibly answer questions the participants might have. A ten-minute break should be given after every session.

The goal is to be engaging and dynamic by creating variety in content delivery during teaching.

Deviation from teaching notes comes with preparation and mastery. All teachers are encouraged to vary the methods of teaching, but not at the expense of omitting content by adding extra-biblical material. Allow for participants to interact with the material and with the other participants, thus giving way to discussion, activities, and application.

As a teacher, focus your preparation time on communicating the key points of each session and giving examples or illustrations that will inspire and encourage the participants. Not all the provided illustrations from the teacher's notes have to be used, and others may be substituted for more relevant or personal illustrations.

It is highly recommended that Scripture narratives used in explaining points be delivered by storytelling, whereas short verses may simply be read verbatim to support the validity of key thoughts. Please note that the students' manual uses the ESV Bible translation.

Also, a list of logistical needs is provided for some sessions so the teacher and administrative staff or volunteer can adequately prepare all videos, supplies, and materials ahead of time.

Lastly, a simple evaluation form is provided at the end of this course. Please allow for participants to fill this out and submit by the end of the final session. This will help provide feedback for improvement and future implementation of the course.

### SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENT PER TOPIC

*[Please allow for flexibility in the time allotment.]*

|  |
| --- |
| **DAY 1** |
| SESSION 1 |  |  |
| **The Power of God** | 5 minutes | Welcome and Introduction |
| 25 minutes | Video  |
| 10 minutes | Activity (Practice Prayer) |
| 10 minutes | Class Processing |
| 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 2 |  |  |
| **The Important Elements of the Gospel** | 5 minutes | Welcome and Introduction |
| 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes | Class Processing |
| 5 minutes | Assignment |
| 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 3 |  |  |
| **Engaging Culture and Community** | 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes  | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
| **DAY 2** |
| SESSION 4 |  |  |
| **Recognizing Uniqueness in Evangelism Approaches** | 5 minutes | Welcome and Introduction |
| 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes  | Application |
| 10 minutes | Class Processing |
| 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 5 |  |  |
| **Your Two-Minute Miracle and More** | 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 20 minutes  | Workshop (Your Two-Minute Miracle) |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
| 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 6 |  |  |
| **The Gospel to the World** | 25 minutes | Video  |
| 10 minutes  | Application |
| 10 minutes | Class Processing |
| 5 minutes | End of Preaching the Gospel |

# Session 1 – THE POWER OF GOD

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Ferdie Cabiling

### BACKGROUND of the speaker

Bishop Ferdie Cabiling is the director of Victory Metro Manila and oversees over fifty lead pastors who preach weekly in over a hundred worship services.

Ferdie was an eighteen-year-old university student when he became a Christian, through the leadership of Steve Murrell. He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Adamson University. He then went on to become a youth pastor and senior pastor, as Victory has continued to grow since 1984.

A preacher, an evangelist, and an avid ultramarathoner, Ferdie has completed ten marathons, including the infamous 160-km Bataan Death March twice. In 2015, he ran more than 2,200 kilometers across the Philippines to raise awareness and funds for the scholars of the Real LIFE Foundation.

In June 2016, Ferdie was ordained a bishop of Victory as he continues to oversee the leadership and growth of Victory in Metro Manila.

Ferdie and his wife Judy have two children and have been married for over twenty-five years.

### WELCOME AND introduction (5 MINUTES)

Welcome to the Preaching the Gospel course or we also call this, Evangelism class!

The word "evangelism" comes from the root word *evangel* where we get the word the gospel–and if you use the verb transliteration of this it means "to gospelize" or "to evangelize". When we say to evangelize, some people will always have the connotation that it is supposed to be done by the full-time ministers or pastors only. But let's look at what the Scriptures say about this . . .

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| • Preaching the gospel is every (1) Christian’s task—not just for pastors or full-time ministers. |

### EXPLANATION

In Acts 8:1 when persecution came, the apostles stayed, and the rest of the believers were scattered all over the place. The Bible says that those who were scattered, preached the gospel. We can see from this Scripture that everyone who were scattered were able to preach the gospel and so we see that this is not just designed for full-time ministers—this is for everyone. You don’t need to have a pulpit to evangelize or preach the gospel. When we say preach the gospel, this is designed for every believer and follower of Jesus Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| • The gospel (2) is the power of God that brings salvation. |

### EXPLANATION

When we talk about evangelism, sometimes we only think about ourselves and our capability to do it, but evangelism is not about us but about the power of God. The triune God is involved in all of evangelizing and preaching the gospel. God the Father sent His Son, and His Son was sacrificed and was resurrected and the Holy Spirit is the one regenerating hearts. This is not our job for people to get to know Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to bring conviction and that’s what we call in theology “regeneration." It is His job to bring about conviction, not ours. We should not rest on man’s ability but instead rest our faith on God’s ability and doing.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

ROMANS 1:16

Nineteen out of twenty Filipinos believe in Jesus Christ. They believe and they claim to know Jesus Christ, however, most of these people still put their hope in rituals, ceremonies, and good works, in order for them to attain salvation. That’s why there’s a need for the gospel to be preached even in our nation, even though most people already believe in Jesus.

|  |
| --- |
| **Importance of Evangelism or Gospel Preaching**1. We are commissioned (3) to preach the gospel.*And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*MARK 16:15 |

### EXPLANATION

Each one of us is commissioned by God to preach the gospel as what Mark 15:16 says, *“And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel* ***to the whole creation****.'"* We've even been given a task in Matthew 28 to "*go and make disciples of all nations*." This has been Jesus’ commission to the church, given to the church not just to the twelve. A lot of theologians are debating whether this commission was only given to the twelve but I want us to know that this commission was given to the church and we are the church.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. No one can believe the gospel without hearing (4) it first.*14How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*ROMANS 10:14,15 |

### EXPLANATION

There’s a need for the gospel to be heard by people and that’s how the Holy Spirit would come and work in the hearts of people. We need to use our feet to get out of our comfort zone, and cross that line. You cross it and you go to that other side and take a risk for the gospel. Somebody took a risk in preaching the gospel to me. What an amazing experience if someone would just do that. Just as people crossed that line for you.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. God calls those who belong (5) to Christ through the gospel.*To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*2 THESSALONIANS 2:14 |

### EXPLANATION

It is God calling and preparing things in order that when you step out of your comfort zone and preach the gospel, you would just be amazed that the Lord has already prepared their hearts. Some people will have hard hearts and some of them, they’ve been resisting over and over again but I want you to know that the Lord is already calling His people to Himself. And it is just proper for us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and say, “Lord I know, I might not see it with my own eyes whether this person is being prepared by you or not, but one thing is for sure—this person needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, and so here I am Lord, use me.”

|  |
| --- |
| 4. The gospel is the starting point of discipleship (6).*For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*1 CORINTHIANS 4:15 |

### EXPLANATION

Discipleship will not be discipleship without the gospel. It is not about making Christians become better Christians. That’s not how we start discipleship. The starting point of discipleship is the gospel, and when the gospel is preached and when the gospel is heard, then discipleship just starts. They’re being born into or birthed into the kingdom through the gospel, regenerated by the gospel through the Holy Spirit and then they are being nourished by that same gospel that regenerated their hearts. It’s like the milk, spiritual milk as what the Scripture says. And that same gospel is like solid food that would sustain us forever. That same gospel which brought about regeneration is the same gospel like a spiritual milk to a baby, that would nourish the baby and the same gospel is like solid food that would sustain us forever.

|  |
| --- |
| **Prayer: Dependence on the Power of God**1. The effect of the gospel is purely God’s work (7) and timing.*28And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” 29And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”*ACTS 26:28,29 |

### EXPLANATION

Salvation is purely God’s work and timing. Paul knew that salvation is not dependent on our eloquence in preaching the gospel, even though this is important. His prayer was an admonition that salvation is up to God and we should do likewise. We are His instruments in bringing about the change in the people’s hearts, yet it is according to His timetable.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Pray for open doors (8).*At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison . . .*COLOSSIANS 4:3 |

### EXPLANATION

Our desire is for God to give us open doors. An encouragement we can get today is that no amount of resistance of the gospel coming from nations, schools, families, and villages, people’s group or even organizations and people is strong enough to withstand the power of prayer. Even Apostle Paul himself, went in and asked the people to pray for him and for open doors. And so in the same way, in preaching the gospel, we ask together as Paul asked the church, “Pray for open doors.” That’s why we pray, that’s why we fast, because we ask for the Lord to give us open doors in our universities, in our campuses, in our offices, in our communities, because at the end of the day, it’s still God who is in charge of not just preparing hearts, not just calling people, but opening doors in order for us to be able to come in and preach the gospel unhindered.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Pray for listeners (9).*Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you . . .*2 THESSALONIANS 3:1 |

### EXPLANATION

Imagine the Word of God being honored among the people who have not heard the gospel and yet there’s such an honor when they hear the Word of God. It is still the grace of God that causes people to honor His Word when we preach. It’s the openness of their hearts, and when that happens, the listeners would really receive it and honor the Word and by the grace of God there’s that desire to respond.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. Pray for ourselves (10).*19. . . and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*EPHESIANS 6:19,20 |

### CLASS PROCESSING (10 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to answer the question]:

### Recall the times when you preached the gospel. What did you rely on, aside from the power of God? Knowing that preaching the gospel is about the power of God, what would you change in the way you preach the gospel?

|  |
| --- |
| ACTIVITY (10 minutes)**Practice Prayer**In groups of three or four, using the points above, pray for one another to boldly proclaim the gospel to friends and family. |

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 2 – THE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Pastor Rico Ricafort [if there's no live teacher]

### BACKGROUND of the speaker

• Graduate of Entrepreneurial Management at UA&P (formerly CRC) in 1994

• Started in the full time ministry in 1997

• Graduate of ENLI in 1998

• National Director of Youth on Fire in 1999

• Joined several international outreach and mission trips:

o Guam (1992)

o Saipan (1999)

o Singapore (2000)

o Nashville & New York (2001-2002)

o Hawaii (2002)

o Australia (2004-2005)

o Peru & India (2005)

o London (2007) Macau (2007)

• Became lead pastor of Victory Ortigas in 2006

• Currently, senior pastor of Victory Ortigas

• Married to Kitty Espiritu-Ricafort; father of three: Alba, Maja, and Catya

### WELCOME AND introduction (5 MINUTES)

[Introduce new speaker to the class.]

From the previous session, we have learned that the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. Today, many Christians would love to hear messages about healing, generosity, about Godly families, etc. Though these topics enhance us in the way we conduct our lives and make us better believers, none of these bring salvation and transformed lives as much as the gospel has. Today, we will look at a tool that we have learned since our *Making Disciples* class so we could have a better understanding of the gospel, provide explanations using the Scripture, and make us better preachers of the gospel.

In this session, we will take a more in depth look at the gospel using the **Two-Verse Evangelism**.

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| **Romans 3:23***. . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .* |

### EXPLANATION

In order for us to have a greater appreciation of the Gospel or the “good news,” we have to understand the bad news.

[Optional Illustrations]

1) from Pastor Steve: Purefoods TJ Hotdogs winning by 1 point is good news. To those who just read the news, it’s not a big deal. But for those who watched the game, it was. Purefoods was down by over 30 points but due to Alvin Patrimonio’s heroics, scoring more than 40 points, they won the ballgame by a hairline.

2) Cleveland Cavaliers winning 2016 NBA finals. Not a big deal for some because the best player on the planet is with the team. But for those who watched the NBA finals, it was one of the best finals games in memory. They were down 1-3 in a best of 7 finals series against a team with the best record in the history of the NBA. They were playing against the league’s first ever unanimous MVP, and to top it all, the opposing team had home court advantage. Amidst these insurmountable odds, they went on to win the championship and became the first team in history to come back from a 1-3 deficit and win the championship.

We appreciate the good news more because we know what the bad news is.

What is the bad news?

|  |
| --- |
| 1. We are all (1) sinners. |

### EXPLANATION

The word "sin" comes from the Greek word *hamartia* which means to "miss the mark". It is a term used in archery when we do not hit the target, bulls eye or the standard. We all fall short of God’s glorious standard and not a single person on earth has perfectly obeyed God’s commands.

*“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” 18“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

ROMANS 3:10-12,18 (ESV)

Illustration: How many times does one have to rape before we call him a rapist? Just once. The same is true for sin. We don’t have to sin multiple times in order for us to be called “sinners.” One sin is enough.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Our sins caused an immeasurable gap (2) separating God and man. |

### EXPLANATION

Illustration from Rice Broocks:

(Put both palms on top of the other, with the right hand on top of the left hand, with the fingers on one hand pointing towards the wrist of the other hand.) The right hand represents GOD and the left hand represents man. This was before sin came into the picture. Because of our sin there was an immeasurable gap separating God and man. (Lift the right hand up to separate from the left hand.)

Since the very beginning, man has been making all efforts to bridge this gap by personal effort; (Illustrate by lifting left hand up towards) but all of these efforts such as religious rituals, living a moral lifestyle, and head knowledge always falls short. We see these in many world religions who tell us to “do this” and “do that” in order for us to get near to God, only to end up getting frustrated and still feel distant from Him. Why? Because of the next point . . .

|  |
| --- |
| 3. We are incapable (3) of paying for our sins. |

### EXPLANATION

Because of “failing to hit the mark,” we have fallen short of God’s standard for entrance into His kingdom. A holy God cannot tolerate man’s sin. If God were to let sinful people into heaven, heaven would no longer be heaven. For God’s kingdom to be such a wonderful place, God cannot permit sin to enter.

*But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

REVELATION 21:27

Optional Illustration:

Pastor Rice Broocks uses the analogy of drawing a line on a piece of paper, the one end being totally evil and the other end being totally good. He then asks people to mark where they are on that continuum, but just before they do, he puts a mark right next to the evil end to mark where mother Theresa would rank herself. We all have fallen short of God’s standard for entrance into His kingdom.

More bad news.

|  |
| --- |
| **Romans 6:23***For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus* *our Lord.*4. There is a price (4) tag to sin. |

### EXPLANATION

The apostle Paul used the term "wages" to describe a payment in exchange for services rendered. We worked hard for our sin and we have to be paid accordingly. That steep price to pay is death; not a physical kind of death but a spiritual death.

|  |
| --- |
| 5. The consequence of sin is eternal (5) separation from God in Hell. |

### EXPLANATION

Since we’ve all sinned, we are sinners, and we have been separated from God, who is holy and righteous. No matter how inconsequential or huge we think our sin is, because of it, we deserve death and are disqualified from even being in God’s presence. Those who refuse to know and believe in God will be separated eternally from God’s presence in a place called hell.

*"But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”*

REVELATION 21:8

*But your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

ISAIAH 59:2

Now we have discussed the bad news, let’s go to the good news!

|  |
| --- |
| 6. What we are incapable of paying, God (6) did for us. |

### EXPLANATION

Illustration: A person drowning cannot save himself. He needs someone to take him out of the water. It seems absurd for someone to save himself from drowning regardless of how hard he struggles. We need someone to do it for us.

When we decided to follow God, many times we think that we initiated seeking God, but we don’t come to God on our own initiative. He is the One who reveals Himself to us. Therefore, since the very beginning, God has been creating opportunities throughout our lives, for us to find Him.

*26“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”*

ACTS 17:26,27

*“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God."*

ROMANS 3:10 (ESV)

Explain to them that right now, in this meeting, is the “time” and “place” God has created for them to find Him.

|  |
| --- |
| 7. The gift (7) of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. |

### EXPLANATION

The fact that all are guilty of sin and condemned to spend eternity in a place of torment is very bad news. But God, because of His love for the world, has made a way for man to be forgiven for their sins.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

JOHN 3:16

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

1 JOHN 4:9-10

Not only is eternal life possible, it is only possible because of God’s effort.

|  |
| --- |
| • Christ’s work is substitutionary (8). |

### EXPLANATION

John Calvin used the term “penal substitution” to describe how Christ’s death satisfied the demands of God’s justice, paying the penalty for sin.

Illustration: Imagine being found guilty of a terrible crime. Just as the judge strikes the gavel sentencing you to death, an innocent man steps forward, walks over to the judge and begins whispering something to him. The judge listens intently, nods, and then turns to you, saying, “This man has volunteered to die in your place. Justice will be served by his death so I have granted his request. If you accept his sacrifice, his life will replace your own, and you will be totally acquitted.” The core of the Christian message is Christ’s offer to exchange His life for ours.

Not only did Jesus substitute Himself to die in our place, He also became our substitute by fulfilling everything that was in the law. Since we cannot fulfill all the requirements of the law, Jesus, having lived a perfect life became a perfect substitute on our behalf.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*

HEBREWS 4:15

|  |
| --- |
| • Our salvation (9) is a gift – no amount of work can save us. |

### EXPLANATION

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

The Greek word used for gift is “charisma” meaning “a gift of grace.” If something is a “gift of grace,” it cannot be earned. To work for something is to deserve it, and that would produce an obligation—a gift of debt, as it were. That is why works destroy grace ([Romans 4:1-5](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%204.1-5); [11:5-6](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Romans%2011.5-6)).

[Optional read]

*1What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” 4Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness . . .*

[Romans 4:1-5](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%204.1-5)

[Optional read]

So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

[Romans 11:5](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%204.1-5)-6

|  |
| --- |
| 8. The gospel is all about Jesus Christ10). |

### EXPLANATION

"Without the person and work of Jesus Christ, there will be no salvation gospel."

—Ferdie Cabiling

Only Jesus, with the three qualifications of perfect deity, perfect humanity, and perfect sinlessness, could pay the price for sin.

Perfect Deity

If Jesus was not God, then the death on the cross had no salvific power.

Perfect Humanity

If Jesus was not a man, then the death on the cross was an illusion and He could not represent fallen humanity.

Perfect Sinlessness

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

*You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*

1 JOHN 3:5

|  |
| --- |
| • Jesus died (11) for our sins. |

### EXPLANATION

*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 JOHN 2:2

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*

1 PETER 2:24

Christ’s death on the cross was not for His own sins, but for the sins of the whole world.

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*

1 PETER 3:18

|  |
| --- |
| • He was buried (12). |

### EXPLANATION

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures . . .*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

The burial of Jesus Christ was an assurance that His resurrection would become a reality. It also signifies the last humiliation that He would ever experience. For His enemies, his death and burial proved that He was not the Son of God.

|  |
| --- |
| • He resurrected (13) on the third day and physically showed Himself to His disciples. |

### EXPLANATION

*. . . and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-6

Christ’s resurrection proved that He was indeed the Son of God, in contrast, all the gods of other religions are dead and not alive (e.g., Buddha, etc.). This shows that it is only in Christianity that we serve a God who is alive and not dead. This validates the salvation message that we have in Jesus Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| 9. Faith (14) is needed to receive salvation. |

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

ROMANS 5:1

*. . . because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

ROMANS 10:9

*"To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

ACTS 10:43

|  |
| --- |
| **Scriptures for Further Study of the Gospel:**• Romans 3:10-12,18• 1 Corinthians 15:1-8• Romans 1:4• Ephesians 2:8,9• 2 Corinthians 5:21• Luke 24:46,47 |

The essential elements of the gospel we have discussed can be summarized by Pastor Rice Broocks’s definition of the gospel.

|  |
| --- |
| “The Gospel is the good news that God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died—in our place. Three days later He rose from the dead, proving He is the Son of God and offering the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins to anyone who repents and believes in Him.”—Dr. Rice Broocks |

### CLASS PROCESSING (10 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share their insights and learnings from the session.]

|  |
| --- |
| aSSIGNMENT (5 minutes)Think of a person in your Victory group that you believe is eager to preach the gospel. Take time to share what you have learned in this session in an effort to equip him/her topreach the gospel.  |

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 3 – ENGAGING CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Ferdie Cabiling

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

In this lesson, we will talk about the first part of this discipleship process we call Engage. Engage is basically engaging culture and community with the gospel.

The goal of engaging culture and community is to preach the gospel. In other words, the gospel is the inspiration to engage. There are a lot of people who engage but they’re not inspired by the gospel. Till when are we going to engage? Thirty years later, nobody got to know Jesus Christ because it’s all about engaging. The motive that will propel us to engage is the gospel of Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Preaching the gospel should inspire us to leave (1) our comfort zones.*Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him . . .*LUKE 8:1 |

### EXPLANATION

It should inspire us to leave our comfort zones so we see here Jesus Himself leaving behind His own comfort zone as He went to different places to preach the gospel and bring about healing and proclaiming the kingdom of God through the gospel at the same time. Some of you might think that maybe Jesus did it because He is Jesus, and you're just a regular believer. As we've discussed in the first session, preaching the gospel is not just for those who are in full-time ministry but for everyone who have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As Pastor Steve puts it, “Jesus did not expect people especially nonbelievers, to jump into His world, so He jumped into theirs.” There's a need for us to go into the world, rather than expecting them to jump into our world.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. The gospel is a good reason for us to serve (2) the people around us. *For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.*1 CORINTHIANS 9:19 |

### EXPLANATION

### The gospel is a good reason for us to serve the people around us.

### [You may give examples or ways on how to serve people.]

There are so many ways and the Lord will give us wisdom on how to serve the people around us. The Scripture has promised us that he who wins souls is wise and this is the promise that we can ask God to supply to us.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Preaching the gospel should motivate us to be acquainted and identified with different (3) people.*20To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.* 1 CORINTHIANS 9:20-23 |

### EXPLANATION

There’s grace to adapt and engage the culture of different types of people around you because there’s a motivating force behind it and that is the desire to preach the gospel. If there’s no desire to preach the gospel, then it’s just doing social gathering or something like that. We’re not just trying to fulfill our need for having a good social life. It’s not about having a nice social life but the motive of preaching the gospel. The goal is to connect, build bridges, and deliver the message that people are longing for–the gospel of Christ. Pastor Steve in his book, WikiChurch, gave an observation on making discipleship engaging, powerful, and viral through what the Lord did: “Jesus was able to engage His culture and relate to His generation because He was not afraid that contact with non-believers would tarnish His holiness. Rather, He knew that His holiness would cleanse their filth. He was relevant because He walked where they walked but He did not do what they did. He spent time with drunkards but never got drunk. He ate with corrupt tax officials, but He was not corrupt. He extended compassion to prostitutes but never compromised His moral standards.” It’s very crucial for us that as we engage and serve the people around us, we don’t look down on some or be mesmerized by others but we relate with them with the motive of preaching the gospel, and we do so without being afraid that our sense of holiness will be tarnished, but we’ll be able to walk a straight path and yet at the same time, able to connect with the people around us. We’re not going to hide in caves because we don’t want our holiness to be tarnished. We are going to be in the middle of what’s happening out there in the world. Jesus prayed and he says, “Lord, I pray that you don’t take them out of this world. That they will become like salt basically that would be of help to the people around them.” May we see that as our calling. It’s in every one of us that we will not be afraid but once again, have a sense of purpose while we are here on earth, and that is to preach the gospel to whoever we’ll be able to meet in our lifetime.

|  |
| --- |
| *15And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*MARK 2:15,16 |

|  |
| --- |
| 4. We have to engage and preach the gospel because people need (4) the Lord.*And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”*MARK 2:17 |

### EXPLANATION

Let us recalibrate ourselves and align the purpose of our existence to why Jesus came here on earth. He came, not for the righteous but for the sinners. It is the sick who need a physician, He knew exactly who to go to. Let us ask ourselves, “Lord, why am I here in the first place?" The Lord came for the lost so that He may use us as His instruments to reach the lost and dying world so they can experience the gift of eternal life.

|  |
| --- |
| 5. We should preach the gospel and withstand opposition (5) that may come with it.*But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.*1 THESSALONIANS 2:2 |

### EXPLANATION

We should preach the gospel and withstand the opposition that may come with it. There may be times that as you preach the gospel, there will be conflicts and even persecutions. Last year alone, we hear stories upon stories of believers who were decapitated because of their faith in God. We are not talking about church history; This is our current situation in other nations of the world. Here in the Philippines, what do we get? Somebody would tell us, “Oh, born-again ka ba?” And then from there we hide and we become afraid and we don’t want to meet up with that person anymore, and then we tell our friends “You know I was persecuted.”

[You may give more examples and stories here.] God is still at work in the midst of all the persecutions we may face. And we’re not going to give up, we’re not going to give in, but we’re going to continue to preach the gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth.

|  |
| --- |
| As you preach the gospel, remember:• Every soul is valuable (6) to God. |

### EXPLANATION

This is a part of who God is. He is a compassionate God. This is a dilemma that Jonah had when he preached the gospel in the city of Nineveh. When the people repented when he preached God's judgment, he still wanted them to receive God’s punishment. The greatest revival in the history of the Bible in the Old Testament came forth when the nation repented of their sin and yet Jonah could not accept it­—he could not accept it and the Lord brought him to a place where he could understand that at the end of the day, it’s not about him, it’s about God. Every soul is valuable to God. We’re important and valuable to God, so are our friends and relatives and the people around us.

|  |
| --- |
| • Pray that you may be active (7) in sharing your faith. |

### EXPLANATION

My prayer today as we conclude this session, is for us to be active in sharing our faith. Though sharing our faith isn’t easy, we need to ask God and say, "Lord, give me the grace to skillfully and tenaciously connect with other people and then be able to preach the good news to them, and as I do that Lord, as you promised in your Scripture, I will have a greater understanding of everything I have in You."

So remember as you go out there, and you actively share your faith on a regular basis, God has promised that not only that He will prepare, open doors, provide, and prepare the hearts of the people for the Holy Spirit to bring regeneration, but I want you to know that you too will have a greater understanding of everything you have in Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| *. . . and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.*PHILEMON 6 |

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. What can you personally do to engage the community and culture you are in?
2. Think of ways to involve your Victory group in engaging your community and culture. Share this in your group now so you can build on each other’s ideas.
3. Pray for the class and challenge them to engage at least one person this week with the purpose of preaching the gospel. Share in your group who this person is and what you plan to do.
 |

### CLASS PROCESSING (10 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### END OF DAY 1

# Session 4 – RECOGNIZING UNIQUENESS IN EVANGELISM APPROACHES

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Pastor Rico Ricafort [if there's no live teacher]

### WELCOME AND introduction (5 MINUTES)

The past weeks have taught us that evangelism is an important core value in Every Nation, and that preaching the gospel is everyone’s task—not just for pastors or full-time vocational ministers. We are all commissioned by God to preach the gospel. We also talked about the essential elements of the gospel and tools we can use to properly communicate God’s truth.

In this session we will have a greater appreciation of the uniqueness of different evangelism approaches, recognize them in us, and be able to acknowledge them in others as well.

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| *19For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23 |

### EXPLANATION

In this particular passage, we see Paul’s heart to do whatever it takes to consistently pursued one goal: to win people for Jesus. We should not think Paul changed his doctrine or message to appeal to different groups (he denies this in 1 Corinthians 1:22-23), but he would often change his behavior and manner of approach. He emphasizes the need to shift or adjust his methods depending on his audience for the sake of the gospel.

Why do methods matter?

1. The method either supports or drowns the message. Methods are not neutral; they shape the message.
2. Methods not only include the materials or tools we use; they also include the manner or style of our presentation. No matter how great the message is, the probability that people would reject the message is dependent on how the message was delivered.
3. We must choose our methods according to how well they reflect a God of perfect love and unequalled authority.

[Optional Illustrative example]

Before, we used to ambush people and ask them five minutes of their time so we could share the gospel. One of my friends was sharing and he asked if the person was willing to give his life to Christ. He got rejected when the person said, “No I do not want to accept Jesus in my life.” He was so rejected and hurt that he told him: “Do you know what hell feels like?” He brought out his lighter, held the guy’s hand, and lit it up the guy’s hand. “There! That’s how hell feels," he said. That’s definitely not a loving way to represent God and His kingdom.

Personality types have evolved throughout the years. To name a few: [Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myers%E2%80%93Briggs_Type_Indicator), the [MMPI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota_Multiphasic_Personality_Inventory), and a number of tests based on the [five factor model](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Five_personality_traits) of personality, such as the [Revised NEO Personality Inventory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revised_NEO_Personality_Inventory), and the DISC (Dominant, Influential, Steady, Corrective) test. Though these tests seem to describe who we are, it is only God who really knows us from the inside out and He can use how He made us to be for His glorious purposes.

A common misconception about evangelism is that it’s not for everyone and that it adheres to certain personality types only. It’s like saying; “I can’t be a salesman because I’m shy and not good at convincing people.” God commanded everyone to go and make disciples and go to the ends of the earth, not just to a select few. Notice that in our own Victory groups, people attract who they are. Artists attract artists, businessmen attract businessmen, and students attract students. Why? Because God can use whatever personality we have to advance His kingdom that many will hear His message. There shouldn’t also be any room for insecurity because God created us in a unique way that it is only us who can do what we do and we celebrate that diversity.

Since discipleship is relationship, evangelism is also about relationship. Many of us attended Sunday service or youth services because somebody close to us reached out to us. We also stayed in church because of the many friendships and relationships we have built over the years. On top of building relationships, we are now going to look at biblical examples of people with different personalities and how God used their evangelism approach to share the good news.

|  |
| --- |
| **Examples of Evangelism Approaches** 1. Samaritan (1) Woman*25The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” 26Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” 27Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” 28So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people . . .*JOHN 4:25-28 |

### EXPLANATION

The story about the Samaritan woman illustrates how powerful and viral evangelism could be. Jesus merely initiated a conversation with her and through a word of knowledge, He revealed to her that He knows that she's had five husbands, and the one that she has now is not her husband. Jesus then revealed Himself to her as the Messiah and she believed and immediately began to INVITE people from her village.

*39Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”*

John 4:39-42

The villagers would not have believed her because of her adulterous affair, but obviously, she was very good at inviting people and bringing them to Jesus. In our own Victory groups, do we have people who are very good at inviting people for whatever activity in the church? They may not be very eloquent when it comes to sharing the gospel, but God can use this skill or personality so that the people they invite can hear the gospel.

[Note: You may give personal illustrations on how the church or the Victory group grew because there were certain people who are really good at inviting.]

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Man Born Blind (2)*He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”*JOHN 9:25 |

### EXPLANATION

Jesus sparked controversy by healing a blind man on a Sabbath. The religious leaders called upon the man and his parents to explain what had happened to verify the validity of his testimony: that he was born blind and now he has received his eyesight. The blind man did not go to a seminary or a religious school, but one thing he knew was that Christ has healed him.

No one can deny your personal story.

Personal stories of transformation carry a unique weight and often do things that facts alone cannot do. They tell powerful stories of Christ’s saving work, allowing people to effectively share the gospel. Countless testimonies of people with colorful pasts show how powerful and transformational the gospel is.

**Potential Dark Side**: When we talk too much about ourselves and our own personal breakthroughs that it became all about us and not about Jesus.

**Solution**: Talk more about Jesus and what He’s done. Bring glory to Him.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Peter (3)*And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*ACTS 2:38 |

### EXPLANATION

Peter was more straightforward and direct in his approach in preaching the gospel. He got straight to the point, preached Christ, and sought a response. His message cut to the hearts of people and resulted in 3000 people being added to their number that day.

Culturally speaking, we Filipinos are not very confrontational in nature and we want to avoid conflict as much as possible. However, God was able to use Peter and his personality, which resulted to the salvation of many.

Billy Graham is a common example who uses the approach used by Peter.

[Note: you may personal illustrations of people you know who use this approach.]

**Potential Dark Side**: There's a tendency to offend or put off people by poor choice of words.

**Solution**: Use tact when confronting people with the truth without sugar coating it.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. Philip (4)*5Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8So there was much joy in that city.*ACTS 8:5-8 |

### EXPLANATION

Philip used the supernatural (signs and wonders) as a display of God’s power. It was evident that the people knew that these signs were an act of God. As opposed to the sons of Sceva who tried to imitate what Paul and the disciples were doing, the demons knew who was a real disciple and who was not, prompting them to overpower the deceivers.

**Potential Dark Side**: There's a tendency to focus on the miracle more than on Jesus.

**Solution**: Remember that even Jesus did not reveal Himself until the proper time (e.g., Wedding at Cana); He had a purpose for performing signs and wonders.

|  |
| --- |
| 5. Tabitha (5)*Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.*ACTS 9:36 |

### EXPLANATION

Tabitha (also known as Dorcas) is described as “full of good works and acts of charity,” who used her gift of making clothing for God’s glory. In this biblical episode, Tabitha died, causing much grief among the widows who knew her. Her ministry touched many widows as we can see in verse 39, “All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.” They called the apostle Peter to help, and help he did—Peter raised Tabitha to life.

If you naturally notice the needs of others and enjoy serving them, you might prefer the approach that Tabitha did to evangelize. People who prefer this approach often enjoy sharing the love of Christ through deed over word. People with the gift of hospitality often fall into this approach.

There was a book published in the 80’s called the *Conspiracy of Kindness*. It outlines the principle of servant evangelism, suggesting that simple acts of kindness can be the best way to get non-believers interested in a relationship with God. This approach provides a safe and secure environment for people to be themselves and receive Christ’s love.

**Potential Dark Side**: Too much service and no sharing of the gospel.

**Solution**: Actions are no substitute for words (Romans 10:14). Nowhere in the Bible does anyone come to faith without words—even the Ethiopian Eunuch (who was reading the Scriptures) needed Philip to explain it to him and share the gospel.

|  |
| --- |
| 6. Paul (6)*22So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”*ACTS 17:22,23 |

### EXPLANATION

Paul reasoned with philosophers and the deep thinkers of Athens. He used their poetry and culture to communicate God’s message. In a sense, he used their logic and own words against them that they may be persuaded to believe. Because Paul was a “learned” man and familiar with the dialogues of the Greeks, he was able to engage them at their level.

We always say that we don’t win people to Jesus through debates, but there are well meaning people out there who wish to engage in a conversation without any bias or bigotry simply because they just want to pursue the truth. The Bible says that we need to be prepared in season and out of season that we may provide an *apologea* or a defense to our faith. Paul was ready to engage the Greeks because he was prepared for them. Those who wish to use this approach have to be well prepared as well.

**Potential Dark Side**: There's a tendency to be argumentative after being pushed to a corner. There is also a tendency to not preach the gospel at all because too much time was spent discussing.

**Solution**: Don’t substitute giving answers for sharing the gospel. Don’t become argumentative and learn to be a good listener.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. Which biblical example of an evangelism approach can you identify with the most? Recall an instance when this was distinctly seen.
2. Which biblical example of an evangelism approach can you identify with the least? Why?
3. As a Victory group leader, try to help the people in your group identify biblical examples of evangelism and encourage them to preach the gospel using these approaches.
 |

### CLASS PROCESSING (10 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

**BREAK (10 MINUTES)**

# Session 5 – YOUR TWO-MINUTE MIRACLE AND MORE

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Ferdie Cabiling [if there's no live teacher]

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| **Introduction**• The content of evangelism is God (1) and Jesus Christ.*2And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead . . .*ACTS 17:2,3 |

### EXPLANATION

We've talked about the two-minute miracle during our Making Disciples class at one point but this time for the sake of us Victory group leaders coming in and trying to enhance to our efficiency in preaching the gospel, I’d like you to know the importance of your testimony and so enhancing, reviewing, sharing it over and over again will really make you more effective as you introduce the gospel to the people you’re reaching out to. So here are some of the focus of the content, some of the items I’d like us to look at as far as our testimony and giving our testimonies are concerned, some of the dangers that we really need to keep watch when we are sharing our testimonies and some of the questions that we can probably use to probably help evaluate how we share our testimony and be able to effectively share it as almost like second nature to you. So let’s start with the content of evangelism.

|  |
| --- |
| • The content of a testimony is your personal journey (2) of faith.*“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.*LUKE 8:39 |

### EXPLANATION

God is the content and the focus of evangelism. In your testimony, your personal journey (the journey of faith), is your life and how the Lord has used you and brought you from darkness to light. In fact, a scripture from Luke 8:39 talks of a man who has experienced God’s power in his life and he wanted to be tagged along with Jesus everywhere he would go. But Jesus looked at him and asked him to go home and declare how much God has done for him. We declare and preach not just the gospel but how much God has done for us. And we’re talking about our two-minute miracle testimony.

|  |
| --- |
| **Our Testimony is Powerful***“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony . . .”*REVELATION 12:11 |

### EXPLANATION

By the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. This is not about a hype experienced in a sales rally; this isn't about how powerful the product is. This is about a testimony that is based on the blood of Christ and the experience of what Christ has done in your life—that’s where your testimony is coming from.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Our testimony of Christ’s sacrifice conquers (3) evil on the earth today.2. Our testimony is evidence that the claims of Christ are true (4). |

### EXPLANATION

When you share your testimony, when you declare your testimony, you’re basically not just defeating the enemy (through the blood of Christ and your testimony), but also the claims of Christ is being proven through your life testimony.

What is a testimony? Here are three descriptions that will show us what testimony is all about.

|  |
| --- |
| **What is a Testimony?**1. A testimony is a personal evidence (5) that Jesus Christ is Lord.*“. . . for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.”*ACTS 22:15*He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”*JOHN 9:25 |

### EXPLANATION

At least in our case, not just we have seen or heard, but we have experienced it. And so, it’s an evidence of who Christ is to us and He is the Lord. He is Lord. We can summarize what Christ has done for us in a way that people will be able to receive it and show to them that truly you have become an evidence of the lordship of Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. A testimony is a personal description (6) of what Jesus has done for us.• The result of having a testimony is not just having something to say, but having a reason (7) to say it. |

### EXPLANATION

Having the reason to say it makes you different from the rest of those who are giving stories on how beautiful the product they’ve been using in a sales rally. This is not a sales rally. You’re not just talking about or saying something about what happened to you but this is giving a reason why you’re saying it. So it’s describing it. In fact, Acts 4:20 says . . .

|  |
| --- |
| *“. . . for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”*ACTS 4:20 |

|  |
| --- |
| 3. A testimony is a life worth imitating (8).*What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*PHILIPPIANS 4:9 |

|  |
| --- |
| • We share our testimony to inspire (9) others to have a life like ours. |

### EXPLANATION

Not that you have a better life than other people, but it’s about magnifying Christ in your life now as in comparison to your life before. So it inspires others.

|  |
| --- |
| • The message we preach shapes (10) the disciples we make. |

Your testimony is a way of helping shape the disciples you’re walking with.

Now, let's look at some of the dangers of testimony. This is a crucial part in sharing our testimony because it would be good for us to sometimes know the dangers so that we can appreciate what we have, and the power and the importance of giving your testimony. When you are aware of these dangers, you can freely move and give it your best shot when you share your testimony or declare what Christ has done for you.

|  |
| --- |
| **The Possible Dangers of a Testimony**1. A testimony can exalt (11) evil.To avoid this error, only give enough detail (12) to help your audience identify with your life outside of Christ. |

### EXPLANATION

I’ve heard so many testimonies of how their lives were before. Some people spend at least 80% of the time sharing his or her past. One instance is after a man shared his testimony, some of the young people approached him and started asking, what’s your fraternity again? Your fraternity looks exciting. Here are the kids wanting to join his fraternity because he has given so much exaltation of the kind of life he had before–these are dangers that I want you to be aware of and one of them is exalting the evil of that type of life you had in the past.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. A testimony can rob (13) glory from God.To avoid this error, make Jesus the hero (14) of the story. |

### EXPLANATION

The testimony is your personal journey of faith—and when you share your testimony, you are not the hero. The hero is no other than Jesus Christ himself. Make sure that God’s goodness is magnified in your testimony. So don’t rob glory from God by exalting the other items.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. A testimony can replace (15) biblical truth.To avoid this error, understand that a testimony can only inspire curiosity. It is God’s truth that brings conviction (16). |

### EXPLANATION

It is God’s truth that will bring about conviction and transformation in a person’s life. Know the truth and the truth will set you free—not your testimony but the truth of the Scriptures. What would that testimony do then, is to heighten curiosity in the hearts of the hearers. In fact, for some of your friends, if you tell them you’ve come to know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, they might even faint because they’ve known you already. But once again, to avoid the error of replacing biblical truth, we highlight the truth of God’s Word that will transform people’s lives, not your experience.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. A testimony can become a war (17) of experiences.Do not enter into a debate of experiences. Share your testimony to \_\_\_\_\_\_(18) biblical truth, not to rebut their experience. |

### EXPLANATION

Do not enter into a debate of experiences. Share your testimony to uphold biblical truth, not to rebut their experience. It’s not a war of worlds of experiences. When you share a testimony, you are affirming, and upholding the truth of the Scriptures. And when you do that, then it makes it easier for them when you start preaching the gospel to transition from what this gospel has done in your life to the truth of the gospel. So then, it’d be easy for them to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because your testimony is your unique contribution to the gospel and it helps people be focused to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| **Your Two-Minute Miracle** |

### EXPLANATION

Now, just to review our basics from *Making Disciples* class, remember, when you share your two-minute miracle, we’re talking about your life . . .

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Before (19) Christ: Briefly describe your life before Christ. |

### EXPLANATION

Briefly, yes. I want to emphasize the word briefly because a lot of people are not brief—it’s a long, winding testimony about his or her life before. Avoid doing that. In fact, I’ve read a book by an author-evangelist who said that you should only spend 5% of your time talking about before Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Meeting (20) Christ: Carefully explain how you came to the point of submitting your life to Christ. |

### EXPLANATION

Carefully explain how you came to the point of submitting your life to Christ. Why carefully? Because you’re not just relating to them what had happened to you and how you encountered Christ, but you’re giving them a clue. When you’re about to preach the gospel, you’re giving them a clue on how it is to receive Christ. Very crucial, very important. Here, you should spend about 15% of your time.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. In (21) Christ: Joyfully describe your life since Jesus became your Lord. |

### EXPLANATION

Joyfully describe your life since Jesus became your Lord. You spend 80% joyfully telling people what Christ has done in your life.

Here are some questions that we'll go through in order for us to evaluate our own testimonies.

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluate your testimony according to the following criteria:**• Is there a logical (22) flow? |

### EXPLANATION

Whatever you mention here in *before Christ*, make sure that the issue or inward need you have mentioned, is now met in Christ, in your life today. There should be consistency and flow.

|  |
| --- |
| • Is it God-centered and God-honoring (23)? Is God the Hero? |

### EXPLANATION

When evaluating your testimony, ask the following questions: Am I the hero or God? Am I giving God honor or I’m giving myself more honor because of this testimony?

|  |
| --- |
| • Does it respect (24) other people and religions? |

### EXPLANATION

Does it respect other people and religions? You don’t have to highlight things by downgrading or disrespecting people or religions. All you have to do is to let people see the beauty of Christ without even criticizing other religions and other people out there and leaders of different religions. By highlighting the beauty of Christ, let the people be attracted to Him and not become sarcastic about other religions because of how you have shared your testimony.

|  |
| --- |
| • Is it biblically accurate (25)? |

### EXPLANATION

Is your testimony biblically accurate? Avoid using words like *karma* (Hinduism) in your testimony. Make sure it’s biblical and accurate.

|  |
| --- |
| • Are there concrete (26) examples? |

### EXPLANATION

People love hearing narratives; people love hearing personal examples. When you start sharing those stories, it will give them sense of hope that they too can experience change or put hope in their hearts because they hear your testimony.

|  |
| --- |
| • Is it simple (27)? |

|  |
| --- |
| • Can you tell it with conviction (28)? |

### EXPLANATION

Once again, you’re not just telling something, there’s a reason for it. You have a divine agenda, and that is to preach the gospel. Preaching the gospel is your agenda. The ultimate agenda of course you have is to disciple this person that he or she will end up worshiping Jesus. That’s your ultimate reason for sharing your testimony and you don’t even have to say the word conviction because it just comes out of you. And people can sense it. People love listening to people with conviction. You don’t have to shout, you can even whisper and yet people can sense, there’s conviction.

|  |
| --- |
| • Does it avoid Christian jargon (29)? Is there an easy way for people to respond (30)? |

### EXPLANATION

Avoid using "Christianese" words such as *hallelujah*, seasons, giftings, calling, spirit-filled, revelations, etc.

|  |
| --- |
| • Can you summarize (31) it in three sentences? |

|  |
| --- |
| *6Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*COLOSSIANS 2:6,7 |

|  |
| --- |
| ACTIVITY (20 minutes)**Workshop: Your Two-Minute Miracle**1. Write your two-minute miracle in one page. Then summarize it in three sentences:• Before Christ (briefly)• Meeting Christ (carefully)• In Christ (joyfully)Share this from memory with a partner.2. Ask one of the people you are in discipleship with to do the above exercise. |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

**BREAK (10 MINUTES)**

# Session 6 – THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Pastor Jun Escosar

### BACKGROUND of the speaker

Dr. Jun Escosar is the director of the International Apostolic Team of Every Nation Churches & Ministries, a movement with a vision to establish churches and campus ministries in every nation. So far, Every Nation has established churches in seventy-three countries.

For over thirty years, Jun has lived out a passion for leadership development, church planting, and cross-cultural missions. As Asia missions director, he strengthened Every Nation’s international church planting efforts by ministering to leaders in over forty-five nations.

Jun holds a Doctorate of Missiology degree from the Asian Graduate School of Theology. He is also a part of the apostolic team of Victory in the Philippines.

He has been married to his wife, Gigi, for almost thirty years. They have two children, Rachel and John Daniel.

[If there are other things you want to say about Pastor Jun, you may add your own personal touch to introduce him to the participants.]

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| • To have the right attitude toward missions, we must understand God's (1) heart for the nations.• Understanding God’s heart for the nations will give us a new perspective (2) on the Bible. |

### EXPLANATION

Oftentimes, people go to the Bible and treat it like a medicine chest because they got scratched so they needed something to heal them. Or they treat the Bible like a refrigerator, they’re hungry and they want some snacks and they go to the Bible for that. But you see, there is a thread that connects the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and that is the redemptive view of God in history. God desires to reach the lost and we will see it all throughout the Scriptures beginning with the fall of man. When God began to seek man, all throughout, that He has commissioned even Abraham, blessing him, so that all of the rest of the world could be blessed. So this is looking at the Bible from an entirely different perspective.

|  |
| --- |
| **God’s Heart for the Nations**1. God’s heart for the nations is revealed in the various covenants (3) He has made with man. |

### EXPLANATION

Covenant is the highest form of relationship that God could establish with man. Marriage is a covenant, it is the highest form of relationship between a husband and a wife. In the same manner, God made a covenant even beginning with Adam and Noah and Abraham and all these other great men. He established a covenant with them and what is amazing as we will begin to observe here is that every one of His human covenants He made with man, includes with it the responsibility to bring the gospel to the world. The responsibility to reach the nations.

|  |
| --- |
| God’s heart for the nations is revealed in His covenant with:• Adam (4)*27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*GENESIS 1:27,28 |

|  |
| --- |
| • Noah (5)*1And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. . . . 7And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”*GENESIS 9:1,7 |

### EXPLANATION

We all know what happened to that generation. They lived in sin, they rebelled, and God even regretted that He made man, and so God decided He was going to send the flood to destroy mankind but He preserved a family line by the name of Noah and his family. And they were saved through the arc. The earth was totally obliterated, was wiped out by the flood, and when the flood receded, when Noah came out of the arc, God established a covenant with him. And that covenant, there is not a Plan B, it is the same reiteration of the covenant that He made with Adam.

God wants His offspring to propagate the earth, to fill the earth with His glory. You knew what happened to the generation, instead of spreading out like the Lord commanded them, they came together and they decided to make a name for themselves. And that was the building of the Tower of Babel and that really concerned the Lord. And He came down and what, He confused their language, and so they spread all across the earth.

|  |
| --- |
| • Abraham (6)*17“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”*GENESIS 22:17,18 |

### EXPLANATION

The purpose why God wanted to bless Abraham was not just to make him great, but so that he could be a blessing to all the families of the earth. You know why Abraham is so significant? Because the bible says that we belong to Christ, we in the New Testament, we in the modern contemporary period, we who belong to Christ are Abraham’s seed and heirs to the very promise that He spoke to Abraham.

|  |
| --- |
| a. Abraham’s call included a promise to bless (7) all the nations of the world.*1Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*GENESIS 12:1-3 |

|  |
| --- |
| b. Abraham was a forerunner (8) of the New Testament believer. |

### EXPLANATION

He was a forerunner of all of us, he was the first father of the faith, and so he was succeeded by his son, Isaac.

|  |
| --- |
| • Isaac (9)*“I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed . . .”*GENESIS 26:4 |

### EXPLANATION

Take a look at the covenant God made with Isaac. He used the picture of the stars. He said if you can count the stars, that will be the number of your descendants, through you and your offspring, all families of the earth. Did God ever change, since Adam, since Noah, since Abraham? No. He wants nothing less but the world. He did not just give blessings, included with that blessing is responsibility to touch nations. This is why, we in Victory, in Every Nation, we are so committed to missions. How could people miss this? We cannot miss this. This is how God relates to us and we need to be faithful in reaching the nations.

|  |
| --- |
| • Jacob (10)*“Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”*GENESIS 28:14 |

|  |
| --- |
| 2. God’s heart for the nations is revealed in His dealings (11) with Egypt.*14“For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. 15For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. 16But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”*EXODUS 9:14-16 |

### EXPLANATION

The children of Israel multiplied, they won the favor of Pharaoh until a new Pharaoh came and started persecuting, persecuting the Jewish people. They were oppressed. And you know, people cried out to God and God sent them Moses. The deliverer of the children of Israel. So Moses confronted Pharaoh. In the midst of God judging Pharaoh, judging the whole nation of Egypt, what God had in mind is a future gospel message to the whole world. In summary, what He was saying is, if this is just a fight between God and Pharaoh or Egypt, He could have pulverized them by this time and they could have been completely erased from planet earth. But it was for evangelistic purpose that God raised Egypt as a testimony of God’s power throughout the whole world.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. God’s heart for the nations is revealed in Solomon’s dedication (12) of the Temple.*41“Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake 42(for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, 43hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.”*1 KINGS 8:41-43 |

### EXPLANATION

When you think about the temple, what comes to mind? This is the national identity of the Jewish people. This is the center of their culture and their religious lives, their lives were wrapped around this. If you know, if you are aware of how Jerusalem was built, the temple was right in the center, and this is surrounded by residences. Their lives are wrapped around the temple, but don’t you realize that the temple was not just for the Jewish people? What was the purpose for the temple? It was not just for the Jewish people; it was for foreigners to come and when they call upon the name of the Lord, he said Lord, answer them. Hear them from heaven your dwelling place, do whatever the foreigner asks. What’s the purpose? So that all the peoples of the earth may know your name. This is God’s heart for peoples and nations.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. God’s heart for the nations is revealed in the psalms (13).*3Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 4For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. 5For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. . . . 9Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! 10Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”*PSALM 96:3-5,9,10 |

|  |
| --- |
| 5. God’s heart for the nations is revealed by the prophets (14).*. . . he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”*ISAIAH 49:6 |

|  |
| --- |
| *“And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.”*ZECHARIAH 2:11 |

|  |
| --- |
| *“For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.”*MALACHI 1:11 |

|  |
| --- |
| 6. God’s heart for the nations is revealed in the New (15) Testament.*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .”*MATTHEW 28:19 |

|  |
| --- |
| *30“. . . for my eyes have seen your salvation 31that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”*LUKE 2:30-32 |

|  |
| --- |
| *8For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” 10And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” 11And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” 12And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”*ROMANS 15:8-12 |

|  |
| --- |
| *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”*GALATIANS 3:8 |

|  |
| --- |
| *This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*EPHESIANS 3:6 |

|  |
| --- |
| *And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation . . .”*REVELATION 5:9 |

|  |
| --- |
| **The Great Commission**1. The Lord Jesus defined the Christian lifestyle (16) and mission in His mandate to the Church.*18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*MATTHEW 28:18-20 |

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Jesus did not present the gospel message to the Jews (17) only.*39Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41And many more believed because of his word. 42They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”*JOHN 4:39-42 |

### EXPLANATION

Who are the Samaritans? As far as the Jews were concerned, they despised them because they were compromisers, they intermarry with non-Jews. But Jesus showed them an example that these people were also bought with His blood, He redeemed them and they also deserve to hear the gospel. If there’s a lesson we learn here, we cannot discriminate people. We cannot be indifferent to any race or any people.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Jesus never distinguished between home and foreign (18) missions. |

### EXPLANATION

A person lost in Manila, is a same person lost in New York, is a same person lost in the jungles of Amazon. Wherever they are, lost people need to be saved regardless of where they are.

|  |
| --- |
| *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*LUKE 19:10 |

|  |
| --- |
| 4. Jesus’ final (19) words to His disciples before ascending to His Father defined the mission of the believer and the church for all time.*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*ACTS 1:8 |

|  |
| --- |
| 5. As a ministry, we understand God’s call to be an apostolic (20) church.• An apostolic church begins its outreach closest to home and continues to the ends of the earth (21).• An apostolic church thinks beyond itself and reaches other cities and nations (22). |

### EXPLANATION

Apostolic is always a church that looks beyond just a local church. An apostolic church begins its outreach closest to home and continues to the ends of the earth. It may start with its own Jerusalem or Judea, but eventually, it progresses to Samaria–people we don’t like, people we’re indifferent to and to the ends of the earth. An apostolic church thinks beyond itself and reached other cities and nations.

|  |
| --- |
| *35And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*MATTHEW 9:35-38 |

|  |
| --- |
| 6. Jesus commanded His disciples to focus on the harvest (23).“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”JOHN 4:35 |

### EXPLANATION

There’s always people ready. You go to a campus, it seems like people don’t care, but God has prepared an eternity in the hearts of those people and there are those who are ready to receive the gospel at that time. Do not say four months more and then the harvest, the harvest is actually now.

|  |
| --- |
| **Conclusion**9And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”REVELATION 5:9,10 |

You know why mission is more than just a ministry priority and an important core value to us? Because to Jesus, it is something very personal. It is something He shed His precious blood for. When you purchase something, it becomes yours and the Bible said He purchased men for God, from every nation, every tribe, every language, every people. People therefore, every nation, every people, deserve to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. How is your heart for the nations demonstrated in your daily life? What action step will you take to increase your involvement in missions and the Great Commission?
2. Is there a nation that God is placing in your heart to go to for missions? What will you do about it?
 |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### end of this course

### [At this point, you may give last-minute instructions, allow time for filling out feedback forms, and remind the class of the quiz to be done next class.]